

Please replace the Sequence Listing with the Substitute Sequence Listing enclosed herewith.

In the Claims

Please replace claim 15 with the following amended claim:

15. (Three times amended) An antibody that binds specifically to a PST phosphatase interacting protein (PSTPIP) polypeptide selected from the group consisting of

(i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the PSTPIP polypeptide shown in Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO: 1); and

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleic acid residues 682 to 1926 of SEQ ID NO: 2, said stringent conditions comprising hybridization in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6-8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 µg/ml), 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C followed by wash at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has both the ability to stimulate actin polymerization and the ability to bind to a protein tyrosine phosphatase which (a) possesses a non-catalytic domain comprising a region rich in proline, serine and threonine residues and a C-terminal 20 amino acid segment which is rich in proline residues, and (b) defines at least one SH3 binding domain.

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Please cancel claim 22.

Please add new claim 23.

23. (New) An assay for identifying a cell membrane permeable antagonist or agonist antibody of a PST phosphatase interacting protein (PSTPIP) polypeptide, said assay comprising the steps of:

(1) contacting the PSTPIP polypeptide with a candidate antibody;

(2) monitoring the ability of the candidate antibody to stimulate or inhibit the polymerization of actin monomers induced by over-expression of the PSTPIP polypeptide within a cell; and

(3) identifying an agonist antibody if there is an increase in the level of actin polymerization and an antagonist antibody if there is a decrease in the level of actin polymerization;

wherein said PSTPIP polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the PSTPIP polypeptide shown in Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO: 1); and

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleic acid residues 682 to 1926 of SEQ ID NO: 2, said stringent conditions consisting of hybridization in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6-8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 µg/ml), 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C followed by wash at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has both the ability to stimulate actin polymerization and the ability to bind to a protein tyrosine phosphatase which (a) possesses a non-catalytic domain comprising a region rich in proline, serine and threonine residues and a C-terminal 20 amino acid segment which is rich in proline residues, and (b) defines at least one SH3 binding domain.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and do not add new matter. Applicants felt that the language of claims 15 and 22 had become unwieldy. Thus, claim 15 has been amended in part to clarify the language. Similarly, rather than amend claim 22 extensively, claim 22 has been cancelled and replaced with new claim 23 in order to make the claim easier to read. Since the amendments do not require further search, or extensive consideration by the Examiner, and are believed to place the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance or, at least, in better form for presentation on appeal, their entry after final rejection is respectfully requested.